

Downtown Recycling Workshop
August 12, 2015

Agenda

8:00 AM Welcome

Robin Forsythe, Office of Sustainability Downtown Recycling Coordinator,

Jill Scicchitano, Director of Business Engagement, Downtown South Bend, Inc.

8:10 AM – 8:45 AM Recycling Service Providers Presentations and Group Questions

- * Michiana Recycling & Disposal
- * Republic Services
- * Waste Away Group Recycle Works
- * Group Questions

9:00 – 9:30 Recycling Service Providers Q&A at Information Tables

Review of Workshop Proceedings

Welcome

Robin Forsythe shared the role of the Office of Sustainability as connecting the community to resources to advance sustainability. She described the Office’s Vision, Mission, and the Goals of South Bend’s Strategic Sustainability Plan, and described how each supports and promotes recycling.

Vision - South Bend is a thriving, connected community which unites people, planet, and prosperity across the region, fostering the health and prosperity of future generations.

Mission -To design and implement projects and programs that bring environmental, social, and economic value to the city government and residents by:

- * Demonstrating creativity, collaboration, accountability, and knowledge of best practices.
- * Supporting, connecting, and building on local initiatives.
- * Relying on the skills, knowledge, and abilities of all residents and organizations.
- * Building on globally-recognized principles of zero-waste, natural systems, a triple bottom line approach, and livable communities.

Goals

- * Advance an Innovative Economic Ecosystem
- * Develop Complete Neighborhoods
- * Cultivate Educated, Informed, and Contributing Residents
- * Protect and Take Pride in Environmental, Cultural, and Natural Resources
- * Become a Net Zero City

Jill Scicchitano welcomed recycling providers and businesses and asked attendees to consider recycling as one of the “opportunities and resources to uphold an innovative downtown environment.”

Recycling Service Providers Presentations

* Michiana Recycling and Disposal:

Sherrie Archer, Sales

“We do it differently....”

For businesses limited on space and who don't want to babysit your employees, we have a program to help businesses recycle. We have 49 people on two shifts who hand sort everything. Our customers pay for one container, we use one truck (less carbon), and pick up at night when there is less traffic. We are gonna recycle your cardboard, paper, but we will do it for you - you will not do any more work. We are a local company, and provide personal attention with new customers with a sales representative and the owner.

* Republic

Ray Lohr, Industrial Sales & Chris Schlabaugh, Operations Manager, MRF and Transfer Station

Republic is the 2nd largest recycling company in the U.S. Currently opening a huge MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) in Las Vegas. They operate Green Tech in South Bend. They collect single stream recycling, which is taken to the Waste Away/Borden MRF in Elkhart. Republic took over Allied Waste in 2008. They have local connections: local manager is a Mishawaka High School graduate. Operating Values: The 5Rs. Respectful, Responsibility, Reliability, Resourcefulness, and Relentlessness. Their

purpose: to create value for all. Partnership is their ideal business goal.

Republic collects fiber for recycling, commercial forms of plastic, rigid plastics, and recycle wood pallets (turned into fuel pellets). If a new or rare item needs recycling, they will shop around materials to see who can recycle items for their customers.

* Waste Away

Leslie Jones, Marketing Manager

Waste Away Group is a local family owned company, in business over 70 years. Waste Away Group is comprised of:

Borden – residential recycling

Himco – business recycling

Recycling Works - single stream recycling plant in Elkhart

Integra - paper shredding

There are two ways to process recyclables: mixed and single stream. A “dirty” MRF (trash and recycling combined and sorted) recovery is about 40%. Waste Away Group has single stream recycling (comingled recycling only) and a 95%+ recovery rate. Single stream is 10% max contaminated.

Recycling Works conducts both mechanical and hand sorting. Shared a video of the recycling process in their facility. Watch video [HERE](#).

Services offered: Commercial recycling (single stream/comingled, separate cardboard containers), separate containers for wood (many different kinds), separate containers for metal recycling and office paper. Offer 18 gallon totes, 96 gallon totes, front load dumpsters, and industrial size open top dumpsters. They will provide service frequencies to meet needs of customers.

Group Questions

* What qualifies an item as contaminated?

Waste Away: Grease or food waste is considered a trash item. A pizza box is trash. A peanut butter jar with lots of peanut butter is trash (too oily).

Michiana Recycling: will bale and sell dirty cardboard

Republic: will not sell contaminated cardboard. The cardboard buyer ([Padnos](#), same company used by all providers) “is adamant about less than 5% contamination.” Alternative end use of contaminated cardboard is that it is burned as waste for fuel.

* What food waste options are available?

None at this time. If a significantly large amount of food waste is received (i.e. – half a truckload of lettuce) Michiana Recycling will sort out food from the trash stream and compost on site.

* Where can businesses put bins downtown?

Ask provider what they offer in terms of size. All will work with businesses to determine a solution that works. An attendee suggested that a public recycling drop off bin might be good to have in Downtown.

* Who accepts electronics for recycling?

Waste Away takes it, can come look and see what businesses have and if they can accept it. It is a financial loss for the company right now, but working to do it better.

Michiana will have by October.

Republic looking at it.

Note: St. Joseph County Solid Waste Management District will accept electronics for recycling. There is a fee for business drop offs. See http://stjosephcountyindiana.com/departments/SWMD/HHW_Electronics.htm for more information.

* What incentives are offered for business recycling?

All providers offer a financial rebate for businesses separating cardboard.

Green Tech (operated by Republic) offers free single stream drop off of small volume of materials (up to small pickup truck load). A public recycling drop off bin owned by Borden, is located at Green Tech for very small amounts of recycling generated in small businesses.

Business services:

Republic can provide a consultation to help assess if they can provide service, how the recycling can best be implemented, and will refer businesses to other service providers if their needs would be better served.

Waste Away Group will send a rep to do an analysis to right size the service,

Michiana Recycling works diligently with all businesses and focuses on reducing contamination. Offer free office recycling program with clear bags for paper recycling in order to reduce contamination.